

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18448 291325Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

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USDOC FOR BEWT/USSR AND TDAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, UR, US, SW

SUBJECT: RYAZAN CASH REGISTER PLANT- A STUDY IN PRE-PLANNED
OBSOLESENCE

1. LITTON INDUSTRIES REP RECENTLY ADVISED COMMATT THAT CASH REGISTER PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN RYAZAN' BY LITTON'S MONROE-SWEDA DIVISION WILL GO INTO LIMITED PRODUCTION (300 UNITS) PRIOR TO END OF 1975 (MORE OR LESS ON SCHEDULE). DURING VISIT TO PLANT, LITTON REP WAS TOLD THAT SOVIETS HOPE TO ACHIEVE DESIGN CAPACITY (80,000 UNITS ANNUALLY) IN 1978 OR 1979. SOVIET REPORTEDLY HOPE TO EXPORT UP TO ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL OUTPUT TO EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: RYAZAN' PLANT IS INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF HOW SOVIETS END UP PAYING SUBSTANTIAL SUMS (DOLLARS 25 MILLION IN THIS CASE) FOR EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH PRODUCES OBSOLETE PRODUCT. RYAZAN' PLANT WILL PRODUCE MECHANICAL CASH REGISTER WHICH MONROE-SWEDA STOPPED PRODUCING IN 1971. WHILE PRODUCT OF RYAZAN' PLANT WILL DOUBTLESS REPRESENT IMPROVEMENT ON TRADITIONAL SOVIET CASH REGISTERS, BY 1978/79 WESTERN COUNTRIES WILL HAVE LARGELY COMPLETED SHIFT TO ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTERS. IT IS INTERESTING THAT USSR MINISTRY OF INTERNAL TRADE, WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY BE MAJOR END-USER FOR PRODUCT OF RYAZAN' PLANT, HAS ITS EYES SET ON ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTERS AND POINT-OF-SALE EQUIPMENT. NCR HAS ALREADY SOLD A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF

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THIS EQUIPMENT. MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, CASH REGISTERS, PRODUCTION TRENDS
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Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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